

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended): A sampling/analysis member which is used to assay for an analyte of interest in a sample comprising:

(a) a sampling wand, having a sampling swab for collecting the sample of the analyte of interest and a sealing ring means around the wand adjacent to the swab; and

(b) ~~an analysis structure for receiving the sample of the analyte of interest rinsed from the sampling swab and for retaining the analyte for the relatively rapid detection of the presence of the analyte of interest in the sample, the analysis structure~~ comprising a chamber having a proximal end into which the sampling wand is inserted to make a sealing fit with the sealing means as the wand moves through the chamber to a distal end of the structure having a part of the analysis structure against which the sampling swab advances to remove and collect the sample within a cavity in a reaction well having a reagent disc comprising a porous, non-fibrous absorbent polymeric material onto which a reactant system has been loaded by contacting a solution of the

reactant system in a solvent with the polymeric material and removing the solvent from the polymeric material, the disc receiving the sample of the analyte of interest collected from the sampling swab and retaining the analyte for the relatively rapid detection of the presence of the analyte of interest in the sample.

2.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material has a density of from about 0.05 g/cc to about 0.1 g/cc, and an average pore size of from about 0.2 mm to about 1 mm, a pore size range of from about 0.004 to about 1.2 mm, and an absorptive capacity of from about 5 g water/g of polymeric material to about 15 g water/g or polymeric material.

3.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl acetal.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled).

6.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 3, wherein the polymeric material has a cylindrical shape.

7.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 6, wherein the polymeric material has a height which is less than a diameter.

Claims 8-9.(Cancelled).

10.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the polymeric material has a density of about 0.05 g/cc; an average pore size of from 0.9 to 1 mm; a pore size range of about 0.2 mm to about 1.2 mm; and an absorptive capacity of approximately 15 g of water/g of polymeric material.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

12.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the solvent has been removed from the polymeric material by a method selected from the group consisting of evaporation, sublimation, freeze-drying or lyophilization.

13.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the reactant system capable of undergoing a reaction with adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to generate chemiluminescence as a product of the reaction has been loaded onto the reagent disc.

14.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the reactant system comprising a luciferase/luciferin system has been loaded onto the reagent disc.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

16.(Previously Presented): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 14, wherein the reactant system further comprises trehalose in an amount effective to increase the luminescence emission by a factor of more than 100%.

17.(New): The sampling/analysis member of Claim 1, wherein the part of the analysis structure against which the sampling swab advances comprises a base mounted in the analysis structure.